

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09969 141133Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
FEAE-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 /081 W
-----050002 141226Z /42
R 141042Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4699

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9969

FOLG RECD FROM MADRAS AS ACTION DELHI INFO BOMBAY, CALCUTTA
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRAS 1158

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, IN
SUBJECT: ASAMERA: BAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS

REF: MADRAS 1120 AND PREVIOUS

1. ASAMERA EXPLORATORY OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MANNAR
PASSED THROUGH A ZONE OF PROMISE AT 9,000 FEET WITHOUT A
TRACE OF HYDROCARBONS AND HIT HARD IGNEOUS ROCK AT 9,200 FEET.
THERE WAS SOME CONCERN THAT THE BASEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED
BUT THE UNEXPECTED FORMATION TURNED OUT TO BE A 300-FOOT
THICK SERIES OF VOLCANIC OVERLAYS WITH MORE SHALE BELOW.
DRILLING WAS STOPPED ON JULY 12 IN THE TRANSITION ZONE AT
9,600 FEET FOR TWO DAYS OF TESTING AND LOGGING.

2. THE ASAMERA REP EXPLAINED THAT OIL DRILLING IS NOT AN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09969 141133Z

EXACT SCIENCE AND THE IGNEOUS LAYER WAS COMPLETELY
UNANTICIPATED. HOWEVER, HE VIEWS THIS AS A VERY FAVORABLE
DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL INTENSE HEAT FROM SUCH AN
IGNEOUS LAYER WOULD NORMALLY HAVE HAD THE EFFECT OF COOKING
THE OIL OUT OF THE SHALE BELOW AND CAUSING THE OIL TO COLLECT
IN LARGE POCKETS. HE STILL BELIEVE THAT OIL WILL BE
FOUND AND HE NOW THINKS THAT IT MAY EXCEED ALL PREVIOUS

EXPECTATIONS. THE WEATHER CONTINUES TO BE FAVORABLE AND HE EXPECTS TO REACH THE BOTTOM AT 14,000 FEET BY ABOUT JULY 25.

3. THE ASAMERA REP ASKED THAT ALL INFORMATION HE HAS SUPPLIED BE KEPT IN CONFIDENCE. TO AVOID MISINTERPRETATION IN THE PRESS, HE ONLY TELLS REPORTERS THE CURRENT DEPTH DRILLING HAS REACHED. THIS EXPLAINS WHY WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY ASAMERA PRESS COVERAGE SINCE EARLY JUNE.

MCCASKILL UNQUOTE
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE09969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770250-1069
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770758/aaaabxqn.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c882566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRAS 1120
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1861964
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASAMERA: BAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS
TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c882566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009